

Docket No.: 5259-000071/US/NP
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hideaki KIMATA et al.

Application No.: National Phase of
PCT/JP2005/014945

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: PICTURE ENCODING METHOD, PICTURE
DECODING METHOD, PICTURE
ENCODING APPARATUS, PICTURE
DECODING APPARATUS, PICTURE
ENCODING PROGRAM, AND PICTURE
DECODING PROGRAM

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.